

REMARKS

United States Serial No. 10/808,084 was filed on March 24, 2004. A final rejection was mailed on October 18, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 16-31, 35, 62, 66, 70-72, 79, and 80 have been amended. Claims 14, 15, 43, 44, 67, and 68 have been cancelled. In light of the amendments and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-13, 16-42, 45-66, and 69-82.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge that the Office Action states that claim 67 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 31, and 62, incorporating the subject matter of allowable claim 67. Claims 3-5, 32-34, 69, 77, and 78 have been previously withdrawn. Applicant requests rejoinder of these claims which depend ultimately from independent claims 1, 31, and 62 containing allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2, 6-13, 16-31, 35-42, 45-61, 66, 70-76, 79, and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for the reasons of record at page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 2, 6, 31, 35, and 66 have been amended to delete the “low molecular weight” language, the remaining claims being dependent on one of the amended claims or no longer dependent upon a claim originally containing the “low molecular weight silane adduct” language. Therefore, Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection of claims 2, 6-13, 16-31, 35-42, 45-61, 66, 70-76, 79, and 80 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schmalstieg et al. (U.S. Patent 5,756,751). Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter from claim 67 that the Examiner has indicated is

allowable. Claim 2 has been amended to conform to the addition of the claim 67 subject matter into claim 1. In light of the amendments made to claims 1 and 2, claims 7-9 and 16-30 have also been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of claim 2. Finally, Applicants hereby reserve the right to further prosecute original claim 1 in a continuation application. Because claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from claim 67, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 under Schmalstieg et al. is rendered moot. Therefore, Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 12, 13, 16, 18-31, 35-38, 41, 42, 45, 47-66, 68, 70-72, 75, 76, 79, 81, and 82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnston et al. (U.S. Patent 6,310,170) in view of Fenn et al. (U.S. Patent 5,432,246) for the reasons of record set forth on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 12, 13, 16-31, 35-38, 41, 42, 45-66, 68, 70-72, 75, 76, and 79-82 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roesler et al. (U.S. 2006/0173140) in view of Fenn et al. (U.S. Patent 5,432,246) for the reasons of record set forth on pages 5-6 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Office Action indicates that claim 67 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants have canceled claim 67 and incorporated its subject matter into independent base claim 62 and independent claims 1 and 31. As a result of these amendments, claim 68 has also been canceled. In light of the fact that independent claims 1, 31, and 62 now contain the allowable subject matter of claim 67, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Johnston et al. in view of Fenn et al. and over Roesler et al. in view of Fenn et al. is rendered moot. Furthermore, because claims 2, 6-9, 12, 13 and 16-30 as amended depend on claim 1, claims 35-38, 41, 42, 45, and 47-61 depend on claim 31, and claims 63-66, 70-72, 75, 76, and 79-82 depend on claim 62, it is respectfully submitted that the

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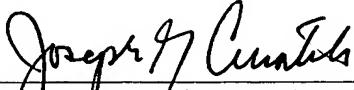
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rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Johnston et al. in view of Fenn et al. and Roesler et al. in view of Fenn et al. of these claims is also rendered moot.

Applicants hereby reserve the right to further prosecute original claims, now amended, in a continuation application.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, §102(b), and §103(a) rejections, rejoinder of claims 3-5, 32-34, 69, 77, and 78 which depend on one of amended claims 1, 31, and 62 containing the allowable subject matter of original claim 67, and request that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-13, 16-42, 45-66, and 69-82. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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